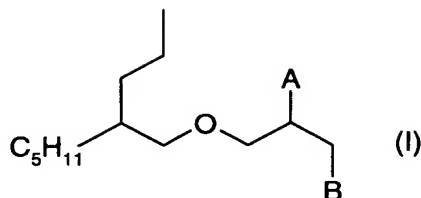


We claim:

1. A compound of the formula I

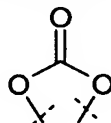


5 in which

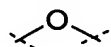
A is an OH group and

B is an OH group or a halogen atom, or

A and B together represent a radical of the formula



10 i.e. are part of the same cyclic carbonate ring, or together represent a radical of the formula



i.e. are part of the same epoxide ring,

and

15 C_5H_{11} is an unbranched or branched C_5H_{11} -alkyl radical or a mixture of unbranched and branched C_5H_{11} -alkyl radicals, where



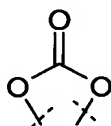
is a bond to a further atom.

20

2. A compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein C_5H_{11} is a mixture of unbranched and branched C_5H_{11} -alkyl radicals which comprises 70 to 99% by weight of an unbranched n- C_5H_{11} -alkyl radical and 1 to 30% by weight of a branched C_5H_{11} -alkyl radical, preferably $C_2H_5CH(CH_3)CH_2$ and/or $CH_3CH(CH_3)CH_2CH_2$.

25

3. A compound as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein A and B together represent a radical of the formula

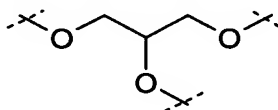


i.e. are part of the same cyclic carbonate ring.

4. A compound as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein both A and also B are an OH group.

5. A reaction product which can be produced by reacting one mole equivalent of a compound as claimed in claim 4 with 0 to 10 mol equivalents of 1-hydroxy-2,3-epoxypropane.

6. A reaction product as claimed in claim 5, wherein the reaction product contains 1 to 11, preferably 1 to 5, particularly preferably 1 to 2.5, structural units of the formula



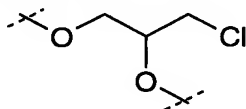
where



is a bond to a further carbon atom.

7. A reaction product which can be produced by reacting one mole equivalent of a compound as claimed in claim 1, in which A is an OH group and B is a halogen atom, with 0 to 10 mol equivalents of 1-halo-2,3-epoxypropane, preferably epichlorohydrin.

8. A reaction product as claimed in claim 7, wherein the reaction product contains 1 to 11, preferably 1 to 5, particularly preferably 1 to 2.5, structural units of the formula

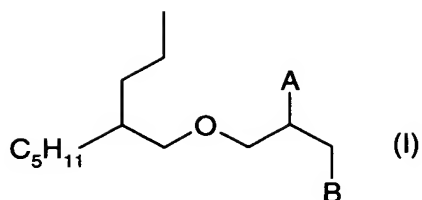


where



is a bond to a further atom.

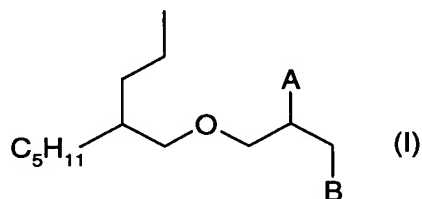
9. A method for producing compounds of the formula I



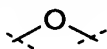
in which A is an OH group and B is a halogen atom,
and

C_5H_{11} is an unbranched or branched C_5H_{11} -alkyl radical or a mixture of unbranched
and branched C_5H_{11} -alkyl radicals,
by reacting 2-propylheptanol with 1-halo-2,3-epoxypropane in the presence of a
Lewis acid.

10. A method for producing a compound of the formula I,



in which A and B together represent a radical of the formula

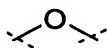


i.e. are part of the same epoxide ring, by reacting a compound of the formula I, in
which A is an OH group and B is a halogen atom, with a base, where



is a bond to a further carbon atom.

11. A method for producing a compound as claimed in claim 4 by hydrolysis of a
compound of the formula I, in which A and B together represent a radical of the
formula



i.e. are part of the same epoxide ring, in the presence of a catalyst, where



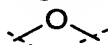
is a bond to a further atom.

12. A method for producing a compound as claimed in claim 4, 5 or 6 by reacting 2-
propylheptanol with 1-hydroxy-2,3-epoxypropane.

13. A method for producing a compound as claimed in claim 1, in which A is an OH group and B is a halogen atom, preferably a Cl atom, 8 or 9 by reacting 2-propylheptanol with 1-halo-2,3-epoxypropane, preferably epichlorohydrin.

14. A method for producing a compound as claimed in claim 3 by reacting a compound as claimed in claim 4 with phosgene.

15. A method for producing a compound as claimed in claim 3 by reacting a compound of the formula I, in which A and B together represent a radical of the formula



i.e. are part of the same epoxide ring, with CO₂ in the presence of a catalyst, where



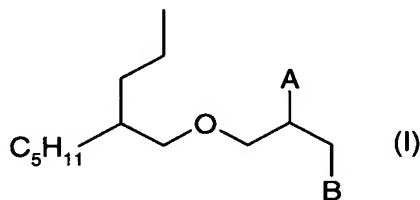
is a bond to a further atom.

16. A method for producing a reaction product as claimed in either of claims 5 and 6 by reacting one mol equivalent of a compound as claimed in claim 4 with 1 to 10 mol equivalents of 1-hydroxy-2,3-epoxypropane.

17. A method for producing a reaction product as claimed in either of claims 7 and 8 by reacting one mol equivalent of a compound as claimed in claim 1, in which A is an OH group and B is a halogen atom, with 1 to 10 mol equivalents of 1-halo-2,3-epoxypropane, preferably epichlorohydrin.

18. A method for producing a compound as claimed in claim 3, comprising all or two or more of the following steps:

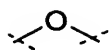
a) reaction of 2-propylheptanol with 1-halo-2,3-epoxypropane, where a compound of the formula I



is formed, in which A is an OH group and B is a halogen atom,

b) reaction of the compound formed in step a) with a base, where a compound of the formula I is formed in which A and B together represent a radical of

the formula



i.e. are part of the same epoxide ring, where



5

is a bond to a further atom,

and

c) hydrolysis of the compound formed in step b), where a compound as claimed in claim 4 is formed,

10

d) reaction of the compound formed in step d) with phosgene, where the desired compound as claimed in claim 3 is formed;

or

e) reaction of the compound formed in step b) with CO₂ in the presence of a catalyst, where the desired compound as claimed in claim 3 is formed.

15

19. A method for producing a compound as claimed in claim 3, comprising the following steps:

a) reaction of 2-propylheptanol with 1-hydroxy-2,3-epoxypropane (glycidol), where a compound as claimed in claim 4 is formed,

20

b) reaction of the compound formed in step a) with phosgene, where the desired compound as claimed in claim 3 is formed.

20. The use of compounds as claimed in claim 3 or mixtures of compounds as claimed in claim 3 as cosurfactants.

25

21. The use of compounds as claimed in any of claims 5 to 8 or mixtures of compounds as claimed in any of claims 5 to 8 as thickeners.

22. The use of compounds as claimed in any of claim 4 as cleaning surfactant.

30

23. A household detergent, household cleaner, body-cleansing composition or bodycare composition comprising at least one compound as claimed in any of claims 3 to 8.